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WORLINGWORTH CRICKET CLUB

Supervising Children at Cricket Sessions and Transporting Children

**Guidelines**

The following guidelines provide information for managers and coaches regarding the supervision of children playing cricket either during training or matches and their transportation.

**Ratios of Adults to Children**

The ECB provides guidance regarding two types of ratio:

***1. Supervision ratios:*** *these relate to managing groups of children and ensuring there are sufficient adults present to deal with any issue or incident that may arise. They apply to every situation where children are playing cricket.*

***2. Coaching ratios****: these relate to the numbers of children each coach can have in their coaching group and do not replace the supervision ratios.*

**Requirements for supervision ratios:**

There must always be a minimum of two adults present for all sessions and matches involving children and sufficient adults must always be present to adequately supervise all participants and manage any incident that may arise.

As a minimum the following ratios must be adhered to:

Aged 8 and under – 1 adult : 8 children

Aged 9 and over – 1 adult : 10 children

NB: Helpers under the age of 18 years count as children for the purposes of these ratios.

In matches there must always be at least two adults present and responsible for the team. For single sex groups, there must be at least one same gender member of staff. For mixed groups there must be at least one male and one female supervising adult.

If coaches find themselves placed in a position where they are expected to work alone and unsupervised they should raise their concerns with the Club Welfare Officer.

**Guidelines for qualified coach ratios at coaching sessions**

These coaching ratios are very different to the child supervision ratios, which are required at all sessions regardless of where these are held or which activities the children are doing.

**The ECB guidelines for the number of qualified coaches required to run different technical disciplines within the game are as follows:**

Net Coaching: 1 coach : 8 children

Group Coaching: 1 coach : 24 children

Hard Ball Coaching: 1 coach : 16 children

**Other Aspects of Supervising Children at Cricket Sessions**

**Drinking water and avoiding dehydration:** It is vital all players drink appropriate amounts of water to avoid any possible risks of dehydration during matches and practice sessions.

Coaches, managers and umpires are encouraged to:

* Ensure regular intervals for drinks are arranged, particularly in matches of more than 20 overs per innings, or in hot weather
* Plan drinks breaks in practice sessions and matches every 20-40 minutes on warm sunny days. (This may sound excessive but on hot days players can need up to two or three litres each to stay fully hydrated)
* Avoid waiting for children to say they are thirsty before planning a drinks break as thirst is an indication of dehydration

**Taking care in the sun:** Taking part or watching cricket can mean that children and young peoples’ more delicate skin is subject to “prolonged sun exposure” which could result in sunburn. To avoid this and reduce risk of melanoma later in life supervising adults should:

* Ensure that they set a good example to the children in their care by taking steps to protect themselves from the sun.
* Encourage the children in their care to wear a hat; cover up and put sun cream on regularly (factor 30+)

**Drop off and Pick Up Arrangements: Drop-off:** Each coach will have a register of the children in their coaching/playing group and will be responsible for checking in children at the start of the session. Parents/carers will be asked to register their child with the coach when they arrive at the coaching session/match. Coaches and club officials will only become responsible for a child once a child or young person has been signed into a coaching session or match by their parent/carer. **Pick-up:** at the end of the cricket session coaches must ensure that all children have been returned to the care of their parent/carer before they leave the session themselves.

**Risk assessing club facilities for children’s cricket:** The club will ensure that we have undertaken an adequate risk assessment of our club house and grounds for children’s cricket and that this is published both in the club house and on our website and reviewed annually.

**Transporting children to and from cricket sessions and matches:**

Parents/ carers are responsible for making arrangements for the safe delivery and collection of their child for matches or training.

It is not the responsibility of the coach or team manager to transport, or arrange to transport, children to and from the club or match.

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